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## MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

The past year has been eventful. But notwithstanding the difficulties and dangers through which we have passed, and the severe domestic affliction experienced by the Chief Executive, there is still, in the present aspect of affairs, cause for felicitation and for gratitude to the Supreme Arbiter of Nations.

FOREIGN RELATIONS. Our relations with Foreign Powers continue on the most friendly footing.

Owing to causes occurring both in Sierra Leone and Liberia—among which were the temporary absence of the British Consul, and the prevalence of the yellow fever epidemic in Sierra Leone, and political difficulties in Liberia—the North West Boundary Treaty between Great Britain and Liberia has not been concluded. It is hoped, however, that within a short time this object will be accomplished.

Considering the contemplated increased commercial relations between the Republic and the Kingdom of Belgium, there was need for a more comprehensive treaty between the two countries. The Department of State and the Foreign Office in Brussels have compared draft treaties. But up to this time the accepted copy has been delayed, owing, no doubt, to the recent change of Government in Belgium.

It is gratifying to bear testimony to the lively interest which His Majesty King Leopold II. evinces in the welfare of the Republic. In this spirit, at the instance of the King, the President of the Royal Geographical Society of Antwerp, Col. Wauwermans, has written and published a history of the Republic, from the earliest times to the present year. This has been done with a view to circulate information of Liberia, and to excite, in European countries, interest and sympathy on behalf of the Republic.



I digress a moment to allude to an important principle of international law discussed in this work—one upon which depended the destiny of the Colony in the early days. The author takes the affirmative of the question, "Can independent chiefs of savage tribes cede to private citizens or companies the whole or part of their states, with the sovereign rights which pertain to them?"

This principle, although acted upon from the earliest times and conceded by renowned publicists of the present day, especially since the formation of the International Association, or The Free State of the Congo, was disputed in the case of the Liberian colony. And it was the contesting of this principle that precipitated the Declaration of Independence.

The Republic has been invited to participate in the International Exhibition to be held at Antwerp next year, beginning in May. Our worthy Consul General, Baron Von Stein, has offered, in case of the Republic being represented, to render material assistance on his personal responsibility.

The Government received, also, in the early part of the year, an invitation from the United States Government to assist at the International Prime Meridian Conference, which assembled in Washington in the month of October; and our representative in that city was instructed to act on behalf of the Republic.

Soon after my induction into office, the Government was solicited to take part in the World's International and Cotton Centennial Exhibition, to be held in the city of New Orleans, United States of America, beginning in the month of December. As your session had terminated when the notice was received, and as your present session would be too late to ask for an appropriation, the Government was compelled to decline the invitation.

The Universal Postal Congress intended to have been held at Lisbon in October, and in which the Republic had consented to take part, has, on account of the cholera epidemic, been postponed to the month of February of the coming year.

The treaty with Spain, to which your attention was called by my predecessor at the beginning of your last session, appears not to have been in a condition to be laid before the Senate for ratification; for it is only recently the Secretary of State has received a draft copy for inspection and comparison.

**FINANCIAL.** For the past year, the expenditures have been in excess of the receipts, increasing somewhat the indebtedness of the country. This arises principally from three causes: first, an unprecedentedly large appropriation bill, in excess of what would have been the revenue even under more favorable circumstances than were ex-

perienced the past year ; second, the retirement from circulation of too large a proportion of the currency—one half. When it is considered that the imports paying gold duties the past year were less than those of the previous year, it can be readily seen how seriously the rendering unavailable of one third of the revenue retarded the operations of Government. Had there been a retrenchment of unnecessary expenses and a retirement of a smaller proportion of the currency the finances would have been in a better working condition. The third cause to which I have alluded, is the necessity which compelled the putting on foot of two military expeditions.

This rendering unavailable so large a proportion of the currency also pressed with some inconvenience upon the people. They were required to pay taxes and military fines. In many cases they held properly audited bills against the Government. The law prevented the Treasury from receiving them in payment of dues, when, at the same time, it had not the currency to redeem them.

In view of the large amount of currency that has been withdrawn from circulation the two past years, its present scarcity in the market, and, consequently, its enhanced value, I would recommend that, for the present, the retirement of the currency be discontinued ; except that all defaced and badly worn currency should be retired or destroyed as fast as received.

I would recommend, also, that some measure be adopted for the relief of persons liable for taxes and military fines, and who hold properly audited claims against the Government.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in the collection of the revenue from the fact, that in cases of doubtful passages of law, the revenue officers seek instruction of interpretation from different sources ; hence, there often arises a conflict of opinion and action. And although orders have repeatedly been given, to refer all questions or doubts to the Head of the Department for solution, it seems difficult to check this evil.

This conflict of opinion and action was clearly seen in the enforcement of the Importation Liquor License,—one receiving officer considering the law restrictive or prohibitory, and demanding the whole amount, whether for a year or fractional part of a year ; while another was receiving a proportionate part of the license for a fractional part of the year.

The Government has taken the position, that the law is, in its very nature, restrictive, or prohibitory ; and that therefore the whole license should be paid, whether for a year or a part of a year ; and it has ordered receiving officers to conform to this decision.

NATIVE TRADE. Trade has been somewhat obstructed the past year by the Fish war, which for some years has been waging at intervals between the Bittars and Carbors. These fishermen have not confined their depredations to the persons and property of their respective tribes, but have even attacked the boats of the merchants having as crew any of the hostile tribes.

Two causes are alleged as giving origin to this war: one is, that the supremacy of the seas is contended for by these fishermen and boatmen; the other is, that they are disputing the possession of a certain point of coast territory. Whatever may have given rise to this war, or however remote may be its origin, it is clearly the duty of the Government to put an end to it.

From its origin, the State has expended almost yearly considerable sums on commissions to the various tribes. In some cases, the results have been satisfactory; in others, where the tribes are remote from powerful centres of civilization, and have been accustomed to recognize no argument but that of physical force, the expenditure has been fruitless.

In the case of tribes not too remote from the centres of Government, small military expeditions are often effectual in maintaining the peace of the country, when other means have failed. And where the action of the Government is prompt and energetic, the object can generally be accomplished without bloodshed.

In remote sections, I am of opinion that small military posts, or block-houses, would be the surest means of insuring the peace of the remote interior. The little garrisons might possess also an itinerant capacity, moving from post to post, as occasion might require. This means, I think, should be adopted as soon as the resources of the Government might justify.

Returning to the Fish war, I am of opinion that the only effectual remedy is, to keep constantly on the coast an armed vessel, that there might be a constant exhibition of physical force. Besides the advantage referred to by the possession of a steam gunboat, the Government would experience considerable benefit in the collection of the revenue, and in facilitating the work of the revenue officers. There would also be some advantage derived by the Postal Department.

In utilizing the territory to the eastward of Cape Palmas, a sailing vessel would be of no avail at certain seasons. Even on other parts of the coast, a sailing vessel is by no means calculated to facilitate the operations of Government. For these reasons I consider a steam gunboat of sufficient capacity a great desideratum.



During the year, the Government has made inquiries as to the cost of a steam gunboat of suitable size and capable of burning wood; and I shall, at an early day, lay before you different plans and estimates.

On the thirtieth day of January of the present year, I proclaimed the Port of Niffou open for foreign and domestic trade; although it is only recently that foreign traders are beginning to avail themselves of the advantages of the new port. As this new port does not come under the law governing River Cess and creating deputy collectors, it is necessary that you provide a salary for the collector of Niffou.

**LIBERIA'S BOUNDARIES.** The causes which have delayed the conclusion of the Boundary Treaty, have postponed also the opening of the Port of Mannah. Beyond some preliminary steps, no progress has been made towards the San Pedro settlement. The heavy rains had set in before the Government could complete its arrangements, which were also retarded by lack of communication with the counties. The volunteers, too, did not come forward in sufficient numbers, of whom it was desired to procure an equal proportion from each county. As it is the intention of the Government to start this dries, the Society also being ready to move about that time, I have to request that you renew the appropriation for that settlement.

**THE KORSORS.** On coming into office, I found the Little Cape Mount country inflamed with a Korsor war. In this case, history was but repeating itself. In all ages of the world, warlike and unproductive tribes, inhabiting, for the most part, unprolific sections of country, have subsisted chiefly by inroads on peaceable and productive tribes.

The Korsors belong properly to the interior of the Gallinas country. In the case referred to, they had been invited into the Little Cape Mount country by one rival chief to fight another. There had been considerable destruction of life and property: trade had entirely ceased, and the Korsors had become masters of the situation. Had they not been checked, they would soon have been followed by other bands; and their course would have continued onward in the rear of the settlements, until checked by a powerful foe. Devastation would have followed in their path.

My predecessor had, through a commission, endeavored to ascertain the cause of the war, in order to put a stop to it. My attention was called to the situation by a resolution of the House. And notwithstanding I had requested an increased appropriation for "maintaining peace on the highways to the interior," with a view to meeting this difficulty, the Government resorted once more to a commission. Without going back to the origin of the war, I had to deal

with the facts as they presented themselves. The Korsors were evidently invaders and aggressors. They were ordered to restore the prisoners and plunder, and leave the country. To the demands of the Government, they returned an unsatisfactory and insolent reply.

A detachment of the First Regiment, under the command of Colonel Williams, was dispatched in the month of March, to execute the orders of the Government. One of these orders was the demolition of all the barricades in that section, which are always a provocative of war. The expedition was successful.

In keeping with one of the policies announced in my Innaugural, this section of country was laid off into several districts, and in each district there was appointed a head-chief responsible for the peace of the country. Since the military expedition, quiet has reigned and trade has revived in that district.

In the month of September, the noted Chief, Maranna Sandoh, of the Teywah country, died in the town of Sugary. Chief Freeman of Bessy has been selected as his successor. The representative of the Government assisted at the installation and administered the oath of office. I consider this change in the government of that district as having considerable political importance.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. I beg leave to call your attention to the public domain. The State possesses millions of acres of the most fertile soil. Land is abundant and cheap, but capital is scarce. Keeping in view the needed reservation for Negro immigrants and the coming generations, there is still room for the introduction of capital into the country for the exploitation of a part of the public domain—the cultivation of the soil, the selling and exporting of timber, and the working of mines. The present law, granting leases for fifty years, subject to the approval of the Legislature with the privilege of renewing such leases for another term of fifty years, seems to leave matters in such a state of delay and uncertainty as would materially hinder, if it did not thwart, its own object. It is believed that the law can be rendered so definite, as to enable the Executive to effect leases in the recess of the Legislature. According to the opinion that seems to prevail as to the interpretation of the existing law, citizens are unable to effect leases of their land for more than twenty-one years. I believe, however, that a law allowing citizens to lease their lands for longer periods, the same as the Government, would promote the interests of the country.

The support of the Government being derived principally from external revenue, and the needs of the Government increasing in a greater ratio than does the revenue, every effort should be put forth

not only to increase the commerce of the country, but also to open up some additional profitable and lasting source of internal revenue.

There is needed a general and well-defined law, so devised as to protect the natives in the possession of their town and farm sites. There should be reservations for them in proportion to the populations of the towns. Each Chief Executive has from time to time issued orders in the case, but the encroachment continues; and the tendency is to drive away trade and labor, and sow, probably, the seeds of dislike, if not of a more bitter feeling for the institutions of the country. We are not fulfilling the promise we made on obtaining from the natives the sovereignty of the country.

"The improvement of the native tribes" (I quote from the 15th section of the V, Article of the Constitution of Liberia) "and their advancement in the art of agriculture and husbandry being a cherished object of this Government, it shall be the duty of the President to appoint in each county some discreet person, whose duty it shall be to make regular and periodical tours through the country for the purpose of calling the attention of the natives to those wholesome branches of industry, and of instructing them in the same; and the Legislature shall, as soon as it can conveniently be done, make provision for these purposes by the appropriation of money."

I make this quotation, in order to show the intention of the framers of the Government to protect the natives in the possession and use of land.

There is another class looking to participation in the distribution of the public lands. From time to time there emanate from the educational institutions of the country, particularly the foreign missionary schools, young men educated, civilized and Christianized. I have been asked to grant lands to them. Different Chief Executives, with a view to encourage the adoption of civilization and Christianity by the native youths, have, in keeping with the intention, no doubt, of the founders of the Republic, granted them small tracts of land from the public domain. But as there is no law to protect them in their possessions, they have suffered from encroachments and have in some cases lost their land. There is needed explicit law on the subject.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** The usual number of schools has been opened in the different sections; and the Department of the Interior has procured a fine assortment of books and other requisites. Complaints have occasionally reached the Department as to the qualifications of the teachers. In my Inaugural, I remarked that "it cannot be supposed that the most efficient teachers can be procured for the small salaries which the Government will be compelled to pay for a

long time to come, owing to the large number of teachers to be employed in proportion to the population, and this again owing to the scattered state of the people." The only way in which this can be remedied at present is, for the citizens of each township to supplement the small Government salaries by private contributions. The school teachers have participated in the general inconvenience arising from retiring too large a proportion of the currency. It is gratifying to know that the friends of the Republic in the United States continue to manifest a deep interest in the educational matters of the country. The views of some of them appear to be assuming the following shape: first, there should be facilities for the higher classical and professional training; second, industrial schools; third, normal schools for the training of teachers

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. The Custom House, Monrovia, for which an appropriation was made at your last session, has been erected and completed under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, as also the Custom House in Sinou.

I have to call your attention to the Court House in Bnchanan, Grand Bassa County. I believe no public work ever undertaken by the country has caused so much dissatisfaction, or consumed so much money fruitlessly. It appears that, previous to your last appropriation, there had been three successive annual appropriations. After a large additional quantity of material had been procured the work already performed was declared unsafe. Different experts made conflicting reports. Nor was the large quantity of material already procured husbanded. Indeed, the interests of the State appear to have been sadly neglected, if not betrayed. This subject demands your closest scrutiny.

GRAND BASSA COUNTY. During the June term of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas for the County of Grand Bassa, the Collector of Customs for the County was indicted for official misconduct, tried and convicted. The case came before the Executive on petition from the Collector and citizens of Bassa for clemency.

The pardoning power granted to the Executive by the Constitution is tremendous; and, on this account, it is reasonable to suppose that it will be exercised discreetly.

On looking into the merits of the case, to ascertain if there was sufficient justification for the exercise of Executive clemency, it was found, first, that the dismissal from office of the Collector, in order that he might be prosecuted, was not done by the Constitutional power, and second, that the Court, in two instances, mistook the law as applicable to this case. The refusal of the Court to all reasonable



time for defense, or to grant an appeal or a new trial, stood as a barrier in the way of the Collector obtaining a remedy at law.

Keeping in view the principle, that it is as much the duty of the State to protect the liberties of the citizens as to secure the revenue, and that the former is paramount, the Executive, considering that the Collector had been illegally removed, pardoned and restored him to office.

The prosecution of the Collector appears to have been intensified, if not initiated, by local feuds and prejudices of long standing. There appears, too, to have been in Grand County smouldering fires of discontent, the true causes of which were misrepresented. Concerning any local grievances, real or imaginary, the Executive had not been memorialized. And this is the more surprising because, in my Inaugural, I had promised to be zealous in removing any evils that might exist under my administration.

On the return of the Collector to Bassa, an insurrection broke out in the city of Buchanan, having sympathy, to some extent, in other places. The burning of the dwelling-house and custom office of the Collector, Mr. McGill, the breaking open of the arsenal and plundering of the arms and ammunition, and the breaking open of the prison and setting free the prisoners, are among the acts of violence committed by the insurgents.

The local civil Government appears to have been completely paralyzed. An attempt to suppress the insurrection by the military power of the country failed, because, it was alleged, many of the Second Regiment were infected.

Another danger threatened that County. It is well known that some of the Native tribes are by no means reconciled to the loss of their old slave-haunts; and this appears to be particularly true in the case of the city of Buchanan. When the insurrection broke out, there were said to have been suspicious movements on the part of some of the natives, and had this state of division been allowed to continue by non-interference on the part of the General Government, the result might have been disastrous in the highest degree.

On a representation of the state of affairs by the local authorities, and on their urgent request for relief, I ordered out seven companies of the First Regiment and as many of the Second as might be loyal, the whole under the command of Brigadier General Sherman, to suppress the insurrection, and bring the principal offenders to justice.

Whatever may be the interpretation of the laws, or the opinion of the measures adopted, this was clearly a case to which could be applied the injunction that has come down from the remotest times,—that *the ruler shall take care that the State suffer no detriment*. The



General Government set at defiance, the local civil power prostrate and paralyzed, there was one and only one resource left to the Executive. In all ages and in all countries, the absolute necessity of the case has invariably pointed out this resource—the military or war power. And the Government had to choose between resorting to this only resource and the probable loss of the County.

If the opinion should prevail, that the existing laws are inadequate to cope with such cases, then it will be necessary to enact such laws as will enable the Government to deal with emergencies of the kind. There is the strongest probability that there were local grievances; and while the true causes were doubtless misrepresented and exaggerated, and while these grievances were not sufficient to justify an insurrection, still they deserved some consideration by the Government in its efforts to restore peace. For this reason, in suppressing the insurrection, I adopted as moderate measures as might be consistent with the majesty of the laws and the peace of the country. Papers on this subject will be laid before you at an early day. I cannot pass from this discussion without bearing testimony to the lofty patriotism of our citizen soldiery. Officers and men deserve the highest praise. Leaving their homes and occupation in the depth of the rainy season, they came at the call of the Government with an alacrity that is not surpassed in any country.

**THE ENGLISH LOAN.** Within a year and a half the Republic will have to encounter its greatest financial difficulty—the English Loan of 1871. As if to increase our responsibility and our difficulties, all efforts at a settlement, or to pay off the interest, have been postponed to the very last, until we find to-day on our hands an accumulation of troubles—those that should legitimately be borne by us, and those that should have been encountered in their proper time by others.

Papers and records are wanting; but having had the direction of our Foreign Affairs shortly after the negotiation of the Loan, I am able to give some figures.

The Loan yielded 70 per cent.; that is, the £100,000 produced £70,000. Out of this sum, there were paid commissions, expenses, law charges, &c., £9,189. There were commissions paid for negotiating this Loan: a commission of two and a half per cent. to the three commissioners, a commission of £5000 to Williams & King, of London, and a commission of two per cent to D. Chinery, who was serving in the double capacity of commissioner and diplomatic agent of the Republic in London.

Previously to the acceptance of the Loan by the Republic, and an act of appropriation by the Legislature, there were drafts drawn on it in favor of private individuals to the amount of £5,583.

Out of the net proceeds of the Loan, the sum of £21,000 was deposited to secure three years' interest on the nominal sum of £100,000.

The sums coming to the Liberian Government after the acceptance of the Loan are as follows: Coin shipped, £500; paid the British Post Office, £100; merchandise, £15,520 (this sum includes £1000 for the charter, a part of which the Government was deceived into paying the second time on the arrival of the ship in Liberia, the charter-party having been fraudulent, and the merchandise was invoiced at 25 to 70 per cent. above cost) amount in the Imperial Bank £17,993—to secure which, the Government was compelled to undergo considerable law charges. I estimate that, after accepting the Loan (deducting for the over-charge on merchandise), the Government realized less than 27 per cent., or less than £27,000 out of the £100,000. To make matters worse, the Loan was borrowed at five dollars to the pound sterling, and paid out at four dollars and eighty cents to the pound.

Three theories or plans have been suggested for meeting the Loan. The first proposes funding the accumulated interest with the principal, and paying interest on the consolidated debt. At the expiration of the Loan the twelve years' unpaid accumulated interest will have nearly equaled the principal. If the Government has not been able, with its present resources, to pay the annual charge of simple interest, it could hardly be expected to pay the present rate of interest on the consolidated debt. But if, as is the case of some funded debts, the rate of interest should be reduced, then by funding the interest with the principal, there would be the advantage of a gain of time, or a postponement of the final settlement.

The second plan proposes a loan from American capitalists to pay off the Loan of 1871, and develop the agricultural and mineral resources of the country. The third plan proposes the establishment in the Republic of a Bank, with adequate capital. Its object would be, the exporting of timber, the cultivation of the lands belonging to the State, and the working of mines,—the Liberian Government receiving a bonus, a part of which to go into a sinking fund, for the purpose of redeeming the Loan of 1871. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

A CRISIS. We have reached a momentous crisis. We have arrived at a period, in which there are required the greatest efforts of diligence and prudence, and the greatest circumspection to prevent jeopardizing our national and international interests. We have often witnessed, particularly this year, the exemplification of the truth, “a little matter kindleth a great fire.”

The expectation of nations is on tiptoe. The "sick man's" goods are often apportioned before his demise. Forbearance has come to be scarcely regarded as a virtue. It is only by the most careful management and the greatest circumspection in our conduct, that we shall be able to avoid those disagreeable entanglements that work the ruin of nations, and especially young and struggling nations like this.

HILARY R. W. JOHNSON.

Monrovia, December 4, 1884.

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*From the Spirit of Missions.*

### BY WHOM SHALL AFRICA ARISE?

We think the following very practical sermon worthy of reproduction in these pages. It was preached before the pupils of Cape Mount (Liberia) schools, with especial reference to the young men therein gathered on the last national Thanksgiving Day.

Rev. G. W. Gibson, the preacher of the sermon, temporarily succeeded to the superintendency of Cape Mount station after the death of Rev. Henry W. Meek. He has now, by desire of the Bishop-elect and Standing Committee, been permanently appointed to the position. Mr. Gibson was one of our own Mission-school boys. He studied Divinity with the Rev. H. V. D., Johns, D. D., then rector of Emmanuel church, Baltimore, and returned to Africa in June, 1853. Bishop Payne admitted him to the Diaconate in January, 1854, and in due course advanced him to the Order of the Priesthood. He was, for a number of years, Rector of Trinity church, Monrovia.

It is one of the most encouraging things about our African Mission that, after all its vicissitudes, it has reached a point of progress where, as has been abundantly shown during the last year or two, those raised up in the field are fully qualified to carry on the work by ministering to their own countrymen as teachers, catechists, lay-readers, Deacons, and Priests; and that one has been chosen from among their number to be their Bishop.

SERMON BY REV. G. W. GIBSON.

*"By whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small."*—AMOS vii., 2.

We have assembled here this morning on the occasion of our National Thanksgiving. This day has been set apart by the civil authorities of the State, as well as by the usage of our Church for returning thanks to the Great Giver of all good, in view of the mercies and benefits which He has bestowed upon us as a nation during the past year.

As the annual recurrence of this season has brought before you from time to time repeated recitals of our numerous blessings for which we ought to be grateful to our Heavenly Father, you will al-

low me to improve the present occasion by directing your attention to some reflections relating to the growth and progress of our infant Republic.

In selecting the words of the text, it is not my design to consider them in their application to the lamentable state of Israel of old, but to apply them to our national fabric, in discussing the question, How shall *our* Jacob arise? I wish to point out some measures which, in my opinion, should be more vigorously adopted for promoting a more rapid growth of Liberia; and to show how you can contribute toward the accomplishment of so desirable an object. Considering the character of the audience which it is my privilege to address this morning—a large number of young men from the several tribes around us, gathered together in this institution of learning, with the view of attaining to that culture and to those qualifications that fit men for the high and responsible positions of Church and State—I need make no apology for the train of thought that will characterize this discourse.

As native born Liberian citizens, you must give at times some thought to the subject of the future welfare of your country. You must feel some interest in its growth and development. You must have some anxiety to see our nation advance and prosper. You must occasionally have longing to see the day when our country with its population made up of Liberia settlers, Veys, Mandingoes, Golahs, Boosies, Pessas, Deys, Bassas, Kroos, Greboes and others, shall arise from its present weak and struggling condition to one of strength and political greatness. You must, I say, wish to see our country elevated and able to take her stand among the more powerful nations of the world. And not only so, but I venture to say that many of you have already formed within your minds plans which you hope to put on foot in the near future, by way of contributing your quota toward the upbuilding of the State. If I have not mistaken the spirit of many of the compositions and essays which you have presented on Fridays for inspection, I have observed that in the bosoms of many of you beat high hopes with reference to the active part you expect to take by and by in the great work of Africa's elevation. This being the case, I feel that you are fully in sympathy with the sentiments that I am about to advance this morning, and I shall rejoice if what may be said will render you any assistance toward solving in your minds the important question: "*How shall our Jacob arise?*"

There are conditions of growth, applicable to nations as well as to individuals, plants, or anything capable of development. And to nations as to individuals, there are to some extent conditions of growth peculiar to them. While it is true that there are certain general prin-



ciples of national growth which cannot be safely ignored by any, yet it is also true that there are special applications of these principles, with special modifications thereof, adapted to individual nations and peoples, which must be sought out and adopted, in order to secure the prosperity of such nations. What will do well for one nation will not answer altogether and exactly in the same degree for every other nation. It is a part of wisdom, therefore, for every people to study and find out their particular character, circumstances and needs, and then to adopt an economy corresponding thereto; and not blindly follow the legislation, and economy, and policy of other nations whose circumstances may be widely different.

In answering the question what are some of the means necessary to the upbuilding of this State, I have to remark:

I. A general diffusion of knowledge among the people. The common school system is now claiming the attention of all civilized governments everywhere, and is regarded as essential to national life. Nothing can supply the place of intellectual culture in the State. Schools accessible to youth of every town and village in the country, under proper tuition and supervision, may be regarded as one of the most important steps that can be adopted towards laying the foundation of real advancement in the Republic. Too much weight cannot be attached to this subject by those who govern the country, and control the finances of the commonwealth. Our very existence depends largely upon the efforts put forth to scatter the rays of intelligence throughout the length and breadth of this country. Meagre appropriations for general educational purposes and for the support of poorly selected teachers, while extravagant sums of money are expended in directions of far less importance, ought to be carefully avoided. With the huge mass of heathenism all around and in the very bosom of the State, we must either muster our forces, and unite in a mighty and fierce crusade against the demon of darkness, or allow ourselves to be destroyed by it, and the little star of Christianity and civilization now sending forth a feeble light on these shores, to go down in utter gloom. I appeal then to you. I appeal to the authorities of the State. I appeal to every thinking man and woman of the country, and I make bold to appeal to the Christian friends of Africa everywhere, to aid us in our efforts to roll back the thick cloud of gloom and night which hovers with such a threatening aspect over our land.

And just here I must point out the great opportunities that you young men will have, to aid very much toward the accomplishment of this object. There are more than six score of you here receiving daily instruction, not only in the elementary branches of an English education, but also in the more advanced studies of mathematics



and the classics. When you go out from this school what a grand thing it will be for you to proceed at once to your own people, Veys, Golahs, Mandingoes, Bassas, etc., and open day-schools for imparting to them a knowledge of the things which you have learned. Suppose most of you should engage in this work. See what a number of heathen youth would within a few years be able to read the Bible, and have at least an elementary education! These on being educated and following your example, would in their turn engage in the same work, and this course would within a few decades present the gratifying spectacle of a mighty host of teachers and pupils, where there is at present not a Christian tutor to be seen or heard. Then our country would be in a fair way to experience a literal fulfilment of the prediction; "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation," Knowledge thus diffused will bring in its turn industry, enterprise, thrift, economy, with all their train of benefit so necessary to the upbuilding of any people. And you, my young friends, will be able to do much to secure for your country these important results. I trust, therefore, that you will have the heart and the mind to bend your efforts largely in this direction. I trust you feel that a "necessity is laid upon you" to consecrate your abilities and energies in this work of African redemption. If, young gentlemen, you will lay hold of this idea, and grasp it firmly, if you will seek to make this business of teaching your life-work, it will not be a vain thing that the Mother Church in the United States has planted this training institution here, that foreign teachers came, suffered and died to establish it, and that hundreds of Christian friends are working and planning and praying for its support. If you will prayerfully and earnestly look forward to this work, and give yourselves sacredly to it, there is no telling how far the support of one scholarship may go toward reaching with spiritual blessings the thousands of souls around us now in heathen darkness. To you the golden opportunities, the mighty possibilities are open for effect in this country, and upon you will rest the serious responsibility of making a proper and faithful use of the same.

11. Another measure that ought, in my opinion, to claim the attention of those who are working for the upbuilding of this State, is that of *seeking to assimilate and consolidate the numerous petty tribes around us, into large and powerful communities under the laws and Government of the Republic*. You know how continually the country is disturbed and distracted by the petty wars and jealousies of the numerous chieftains. You know how greatly this state of affairs tends to interrupt industrial pursuits, to destroy property, to create a continual feeling of fear, unrest and insecurity, so unfavorable to pro-

gress and prosperity in any nation. The evils growing out of this disturbed condition of affairs have been very marked in their results upon the country. They have not only weakened the Government and caused a great waste of energy, but have had the tendency to keep back agriculture, impede commerce, hinder interior travels and exploration, and to place almost insurmountable obstacles in the pathway of light and knowledge through the means of schools and Missions. The evils resulting from this condition of things can be abated by bringing these tribes together, identifying their interests and uniting them under one system of government and law. That this is practicable is evident from the interesting spectacle presented here this morning. In this school are students from no less than six different tribes, living, eating, drinking, sleeping, studying, and playing together in remarkable harmony, as though all were from the same clan. Do you not suppose that there was a wise purpose in bringing you together under these circumstances? Do you suppose it was merely accidental? Not at all. It is a part of the great plan in the work to be accomplished here. It is to show to you and to the numerous tribes of this country, the wonderful power of the Gospel in breaking down distinction of caste, clan, nationalities and races, and of uniting men together in one bond of love and sympathy. It is among other considerations to afford a palpable illustration of the moulding influence of the Gospel of CHRIST; and it points out in characters that cannot be mistaken, the great change which the Heavenly message of peace faithfully proclaimed, is to produce upon the millions of benighted Africa. In this work too, young men, you may become a power when you leave these walls to take your several places in the world's great battle-field. You can become a useful arm of the Government in pointing to the people of your respective tribes the importance of union and co-operation for the good of the whole. If you go forth from this school with the right spirit, and take your stations as the messengers of peace and love as well as salvation, what may not be wrought through your instrumentality for the redemption of Africa? Of you it may be exclaimed, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth."

III. *The importance of promoting a healthy commercial intercourse with foreign nations, and its bearing upon the welfare of the State* are so evident that I need not dwell upon this subject here. The interchange and exchange of production and commodities between the different nations of the world, constitute one of the great activities of the age. It is to effect this that those wonderful sea mon-

sters in the shape of huge ocean steamers, and the countless number of sailing vessels and craft are seen with almost lighting speed making their way through the trackless ocean to every quarter of the globe. Many of these ships visit our shores, bringing the production of other lands here, to exchange for African exports required elsewhere. In view of the relation we sustain to the great family of nations, it is our duty to encourage the production of such quantities of these commodities as will ensure an ample supply for home consumption, as well as leave a large surplus for exportation. But we are to see to it that the commercial intercourse which we would encourage be a healthy and profitable one, and conducted on the most righteous and equitable terms. If Europe and America demand our coffee, cocoa, ginger, arrowroot, palm-oil, kernels, ivory, camwood, India-rubber etc., every proper inducement should be held out to stimulate the industry of our people in meeting this demand. But when the exchange is to be made, we should protect our citizens against the impositions which are, to too great an extent, already practised upon them in giving for the above named useful articles a decoction of poisons under the name of liquor which, wherever it is extensively used, is sapping the life blood of the State and scattering bloodshed, cruelty and death. This is a growing evil that ought to be checked at all hazards. There should be no compromise with it. No consideration of the alleged advantages occurring to the public revenues from the importation of alcoholic liquors ought to weigh anything in view of the great evil which is being inflicted upon our country by their use.

Here again you can do a great deal towards the progress of the State by opposing this evil. If you will set your face as a flint against intemperance, discourage it by every possible method within your power, discuss and point out the evil of it among your people on all occasions, you will do much toward turning aside some of the most dreadful calamities that can come upon any community.

I am aware that there is strong opposition to the view here set forth of the duty of the Government in this matter of liquor importation. I am aware that there are many who seek to controvert this position by pointing to the great prosperity of the United States and European countries, notwithstanding they are liquor-producing and liquor-consuming nations. Without stopping to expose the fallacies of the arguments generally set forth in support of this position, without stopping to point out the fact that while there is a vast amount of wealth in those countries, yet the masses of the people are far from enjoying that degree of prosperity and comfort which many at a distance are apt to suppose, I have to remark that even if harmless for these nations, it is not good for us in this country. The consumption of

alcoholic drinks does not constitute one of the conditions of growth applicable to *our* national progress, whatever it may be for other people and other climes. The millions of Mohammedans to the interior, north and east of us, declare that it is not good for us, and startling facts exhibiting the desolation and misery that it has inflicted upon thrifty towns and villages along this Coast prove to us that it is not.

iv. Passing over several other means for promoting the welfare of this Republic which occurs to my mind, I must conclude by reminding you that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people"—a righteous course of action in the State, in the Church, in the community, in the family; doing to others as we would have them to do to us, as governors and those who are governed, as employers and employees, as parents and children, masters and servants, husbands and wives. This principle is opposed to tyranny, oppression, injustice, wrong, fraud, dishonesty in the administration of public trusts and public responsibilities. It condemns that overreaching disposition too prevalent among us, that leads men to pull down their fellow citizens in order to build themselves up. The Christian culture which you are receiving here, young men, will, I trust, prepare you, under the influence of the Divine Spirit, to go forth as champions for the cause of righteousness, truth, and equity; and that in the evening of your lives you may be able to enjoy a sublime consciousness of having done your part toward the upbuilding of this Christian State and the regeneration of Africa.

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## HELPS IN LIBERIA'S NATIONAL LIFE.\*

BY REV. EDWARD W. BLYDEN, L.L.D.

In obedience to the law of the land and the Proclamation of the President, the various churches throw open their doors to-day for the assembling of the congregations for National Thanksgiving. We are assembled here then on this occasion not as a specific religious denomination, but as a part of the people of Liberia to call to remembrance the manifold blessings for which we are to offer the Great Ruler of Nations our united thanksgiving—to contemplate those elements in our national life which should inspire sentiments of gratitude.

i. In the first place, our gratitude should be called forth in view of the continuance of our national existence. Feeble as we are, and insignificant as we may be among the nations of the earth, we are still

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\* Part of a Discourse delivered in Monrovia, November 1, 1883, the Day of the Annual Thanksgiving.



a Nation. When we ventured thirty-six years ago to unfurl to the breeze the lone star and stripes, we did so with fearing and trembling; and the Nation who gave us the hand of welcome admitted us to their ranks not because we had any right to demand such recognition or any power to enforce it, but because they wished to give us the advantages of a separate national existence, with all that it implies of responsibility and of privilege.

We had the territorial qualification for independent national life, for our domain then was almost double the size of Greece in her most powerful days. We had a country rich in natural resources. We had, so far as population was concerned, the numerical qualification; for in forming the estimate of our condition with a view to our political independence the Aborigines were reckoned an integral part of Liberia. But this is all that we had—territory and men—territory unimproved and men uncultivated,

Starting out in an independent national career thus poorly prepared, difficulties were to be expected—and they have been numerous and multiform. Influences from within and influences from without have operated against us. Difficulties have beset us arising from our ignorance and inexperience as well as from the misapprehension and antagonisms of outsiders.

The new Republic soon attracted attention in foreign lands, and men were curious and anxious to know the character and condition of this novel political phenomenon. White men came to see whether the theories against the Negro race could be substantiated by evidences drawn from the new Negro State. Black men came to see whether they could cast in their lot with their brethren and assist in building up the Nation. These have from time to time, carried or sent back reports of their observations and experiences. Of course when we consider the nature of the human mind, it is not surprising that the reports have been marked by considerable variety. Men look at objects from different points of view. They have different powers of observation, and different qualifications for judging accurately. Their conclusions are often determined by their tastes; often by their education, not infrequently by the objects they have in view.

Nearly all who have come to Liberia have pronounced it a land of surprising fertility—of immense natural resources. But one sees one discouraging element, another another. Few, very few, look beneath the surface or beyond the present. Few see, amid many things to excite solicitude and to discourage, safe and salutary influences silently operating which must eventually transform the whole land and reclaim it for Christianity and civilization—for liberty and learning—for peace and prosperity.



In spite of all our drawbacks and difficulties, Liberia still has a name and a place among the nations of the earth, with possibilities of lofty and glorious achievements for Africa and the race.

II. We should be grateful in the second place, for the difficulties and obstacles which have beset our pathway; for the tribulation which has worked patience—and the patience which has given us experience. We have had a variety of what we should consider untoward experiences. Again and again have we been made to feel that, perhaps, it is impossible to construct a nation of Christian Negroes on these shores. We have seemed sometimes to be aiming to realize an impossible dream. The web seemed hopelessly tangled; the music a tuneless discord. But when we have risen above the mists and clouds of our doubts and fears, and we have taken in the vast work to be accomplished, we have felt that there was, after all, no discord—no confusion.

We have wondered why if this land is to be regenerated the agents in this work or those whom we suppose to be the agents, are so slow in coming to undertake it. But even with our imperfect vision and limited capacity of apprehension we can see why emigration to this country has not been faster, and why our progress to the healthy highlands of the interior has been so slow; why the reports that represent us have been so conflicting. It has been because each part is being properly fitted to every other part so as to secure the harmony and well-being of the whole.

III. We should offer our thanksgiving to-day in the third place for the opportunity we have of giving utterance to the feelings of the race.

Living in the home of the race and in contact with the uncontaminated of our people, we can help our brothers abroad to realize their own thoughts, to see the points in which they may be strong, to find out how in the countries of their exile they may contribute to the world's well-being. I say we have the opportunity for these things. We have not yet even understood this opportunity. We have not yet got out of our weak and blundering youth. And a great deal of the superstition, the tags and rags which we have brought from the house of bondage still cling to us. We have not yet moved as a nation into the great world of African life, so as to take part as Christian, civilized and intelligent Africans in the great questions which even affect this Continent. The principles upon which, as a nation, we are to proceed, have not yet been formulated towards general action—action as an African State—and applied to our social, municipal and international life: but they will be by and by when we are freed from the curse of the house of bondage, and get rid of our narrowness and bigotry and intolerance. There is this consolation, that

a broad and extensive country lies before us, and the landscape of the future beckons us onward, full of promise, but full also of infinite and peculiar work. A thousand questions will start up for solution for which we shall have neither the recollections of the house of bondage to guide us nor the instruction of books to direct us. The nature of our work is such that no rules can be safely laid down antecedently to experience. We have to deal with cases as they come up, each on its own merits, requiring less the information derived from large reading than the application of common sense. We shall have sometimes to ignore the theories of philosophers. We shall lie open to the charge of going against established laws of political economy and all the precedents of recorded history. The laws of Lycurgus, of Solon and Justinian will have sometimes to receive modification, and hoary and complicated systems of theology will have to be simplified for our needs.

As we grow on this Continent we shall move on righteous lines by the force of an inward, impressible inspiration—led by a voice from the mysterious realms of the Omnipotent—a voice to be listened to and obeyed. It is thus that the European actions have advanced under the teachings of Christianity. They followed, to a great extent, the energetic nature within. They never looked upon the Bible as merely overruling but as refreshing and building up their true nature. They never hesitated to move on the lines of the national destinies. The Bible for them always answered instead of silenced their questionings as to the path to be pursued. If the Bible said that the righteous should inherit the earth, they decided that they were the righteous. They felt that nothing true within them was crushed by the Scriptures, but everything elevated by the life of obedience to the truth as they understood it.

We have on this Continent the opportunity for this kind of growth. Light is sure to come on the darkness that now surrounds us. Life is sure to come out of this death, knowledge will supercede this ignorance, and true freedom this slavery to the prejudices of the past.

IV. We have again to offer our thanksgiving to-day for the blessings of the past year—for the bountiful harvests which have so amply repaid the labors of the husbandman—for the wise legislation which has improved the financial condition of the country, and which dealt a serious blow to one of the demoralizing elements of commerce. We should be deeply thankful that the most earnest attack ever made upon the traffic in ardent spirits in the history of civilization in West Africa was made by the Legislature at its last session. Already the country has been made to feel its beneficial results. We have thus

taken the first serious step in guarding our native brethren against the demoralizing influences from abroad. When we read of the havoc made by drink in foreign lands and the disaster it is causing among the unprotected Aborigines on other parts of the Coast, we cannot but lift up our hearts in earnest thanksgiving to God that He has given us the moral courage to take this first step, and let us beseech Him to-day that our legislators may be endowed with the further power to prohibit altogether the introduction of this poison.

Already the light is appearing upon the hill tops. We look abroad upon the heathendom around us and we see the dawn of a glorious day. We see the rays shooting up above the horizon and brightening the sky with their inspiring tints, and in spite of human perversity and human ignorance, a good multitude will arrive in this land, who, in future days like this, will pour into the sanctuary of God for thanksgiving, joining in the songs of the redeemed:—"Salvation to our God who sitteth upon the throne. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and power and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen."

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#### BISHOP TAYLOR IN LIBERIA.

I sailed from Liverpool in the steamship Gaboon, January 7th, and reached Monrovia, Thursday at 7.10 p. m., the 22d. I preached that night in our church in Monrovia. Next day, at 4 p. m., I preached in Miss Sharp's chapel in Krootown, and again in the evening in our church. On Sabbath, 25th, I preached in our church at 11 a. m., and 7 p. m., addressed the Sunday-school, and baptized a native man at 4 p. m.; and at 2 p. m., preached again for Miss Sharp's Kroomen. Then daily for about a fortnight, except Saturdays, I preached to the Kroomen at 4.30 and in our Monrovia church at 7.30 p. m.

It was only after four days of heavy work that we had a break. Then in the ten days ensuing we had some scores of penitent sinners forward at the altar. Over fifty testified publicly that they obtained pardon; and God gave to preachers and people a gracious enlightening and quickening.

The only striking occurrence in the session of the Liberia Annual Conference was the tide of salvation that swept through the whole session. The Conference opened January 29, and adjourned February 3. Appointments were made as follows:

*Monrovia District*—C. A. Pitman; Presiding Elder. Monrovia station, H. B. Capehart; Robertsport and Fuller circuit, D. K. McKeever; Johnsonville circuit, G. J. Hargraves; Plainsville circuit, C. A. Pitman; Marshall circuit, to be supplied.

*St. Paul's River District*—W. T. Hagan; Presiding Elder. Caldwell, Virginia and

Brewerville circuit, T. A. Sims, F. C. Holderness, D. Ware, supernumerary; Clay—Ashland circuit, G. W. Parker; Millsburg circuit, A. H. Watson, W. B. Kennedy, Sr. supernumerary; Robertsville circuit, R. Boyce; Carysburg and Bensonville circuit, J. W. Cooper.

*Bassa District*—J. H. Deputie, Presiding Elder. Paynebury circuit, E. F. Brumskine; Lower Buchanan, to be supplied; Edina station, to be supplied; Bexley circuit, to be supplied; Bullomtown circuit, to be supplied. (These are supplied by local preachers residing on the spot.) Mt. Olive circuit, J. H. Deputie, J. P. Artis, supernumerary.

*Sinoe District*—W. P. Kennedy Jr., Presiding Elder. Greenville station, W. P. Kennedy, Jr.; Lexington circuit, J. W. Draper; Sinoe county, J. W. Bonner, one to be supplied; Louisiana, to be supplied; Blountsville, to be supplied.

*Cape Palmas District*—C. H. Harmon, Presiding Elder, Mt. Scott, Turbmantown and Grebo mission, to be supplied.

Since Conference I spent a Sabbath and preached twice at Virginia, 15 miles up the St. Paul's river, and preached Monday night ensuing at Muhlenburg, at Rev. Mr. Day's interesting Lutheran Mission, about 30 miles up the St. Paul's river. On Tuesday night I preached again in Monrovia and baptized 16 of our new converts. Preached there again on Wednesday night, and in the afternoon of those two days for Miss Sharp's Kroomen, one man and one women of whom were among the 16 baptized on Tuesday night.

On Saturday, the 14th, I took steamship with 8 or 10 of our ministers. Next we dropped anchor off Grand Bassa, and at 11 a. m., 3 and 7 p. m., I preached in our church there, ordained a deacon in the morning and an elder in the evening, administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper, and returned to the ship on Monday. The captain was in a hurry and anxious to discharge freight on Sunday, but the merchants refused to receive it, so all hands rested on the Lord's day. The merchants there are all colored men except a Jew from Morocco. The Jew is the most influential man among them in commercial circles, and stands with them unflinchingly for the observance of the Sabbath.

We were anchored four hours off Sinoe; meantime I preached in our church ashore, administered baptism, and ordained a deacon who had been elected by the Conference at a previous session, as were the two I ordained at Grand Bassa.

Liberia is the garden spot of West Africa; splendid soil, well-watered, good spring water for use, salubrious climate, and more exempt from flies and mosquitoes than any tropical country in which I have labored.

I am very sorry that the Liberian Government has, by bad management, got into debt. I hope our Government will feel maternal interest enough in it to help it out of its embarrassment. If the problem of African self-government works out adversely in Liberia, I think it will be a great pity, and it will be an incubus on future efforts in that direction. If our Government won't help the Liberians our colored



people should give them one dollar each—about a million of them—for the sake of their race. There is a grand future yet for Liberia if they will learn by what they have seen and suffered in the past fifty years.

Cape Palmas, February 19. I arrived here yesterday evening; preached last night to a crowded house. Am to preach to-day at 10 a. m., and ordain a deacon and an elder, previously elected, but who could not attend the recent session of Conference. I will probably preach here two or three days before my steamer for Loanda shall arrive. I am stopping with the presiding elder, Bro. Harmon, a fine man of God.

Your brother in Christ,

WM. TAYLOR.

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*From Friends' Review.*

### THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

This Young Republic is justly attracting the attention of the civilized world, and is destined, as we think, to become an important gateway to the interior of the "Dark Continent." The writer visited Liberia in company with his wife, Sybil Jones, in 1851. We were cordially welcomed by the President, J. J. Roberts, and other Government officials, and by many others of the various religious denominations. We found an open door for preaching the gospel, and many hearts prepared to accept the truth as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I anticipate that, at no very distant day, some of our colored Friends, educated at Southland College, and at Friends' School in Tennessee, may feel called of the Lord to carry the glad tidings to Fatherland. I am told that one young brother has already offered himself as a candidate for missionary work in that needy field.

The emigrant ships of the Colonization Society pass twice a year between this country and Liberia. The passage fee is set at \$100; if persons go as emigrants it is less, or free, with a gift of land on which to settle, and aid given for the first six months while acclimating. The experience of their physicians is such that nearly every case is treated successfully.

On arriving in Liberia, the missionary from this country finds himself surrounded by a people speaking his native tongue, among whom he may at once engage as a teacher of youth or as a preacher, if he feels so called. He will also find himself in close proximity to natives whose language he may be acquiring, and at the same time gaining lessons to fit him for successful work among the untaught heathen.

"A strong Christian Negro Nationality on the West Coast of Africa will greatly aid in advancing the interests and promoting the welfare



of the colored people in America. We cannot afford to be indifferent to the claims of Liberia." An offshoot from our country, speaking the same language; with a Constitution and laws modeled after our own, she should receive our fostering care and kind aid. *Educated Christian men and women is her crying need to day.*

ELI JONES.

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### ANOTHER GIFT TO AFRICA.

Mr. EDWARD S. MORRIS, of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, whose excellent work in and for Liberia, founding schools and missions, encouraging trade and commerce we have heretofore noticed in our columns, has just made a new gift to the women of Liberia and Africa, by perfecting hand machines for ginning, spinning and weaving cotton, to supersede the clumsy apparatus hitherto in use. His new gin and loom, operated by two men, will do as much work in one day as twenty men can do in six days by the native process. They will doubtless be as effective to "astonish the natives" as was the first steamboat or telegraph, and are as real and timely a step in civilization in the opening up of the "Dark Continent."

The hand machines are adapted not only for use in Africa but in this country, making small producers independent of distant manufacturing. To the colored men and women of America as well as of Africa, Mr. Morris makes the offer to accept their raw material in exchange for the machines. The price of the cotton gin in cash is \$150, and of the loom \$25. For 5,000 lbs. of unginned cotton he will send the gin to any address, and for 6,000 lbs. both machines, with full directions for working them, and will pay the freight himself on cotton and machines, from and to any port or railway station within the limits of the United States. His address is Edward S. Morris, No. 4 South Merrick Street, Philadelphia, Penna. Mr. Morris is a friend of the colored race, and we take great pleasure in helping to make known to them his latest benevolent work in their interest.—*Southern Workman.*

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*For the African Repository.*

### EMIGRATION: TRUTH IN A NUT-SHELL.

BY J. B. GILLESPIE.

The Negro question is before the American people as never before and as there is much said about this proscribed race, it behooves me to say a few words on the subject. It is thought by some of the wise and philanthropic men of this country, and they advocate it, that emigration of the colored population from the United States to Liberia is

the only medium in bringing about Negro elevation and redeeming Africa; while there are some who ignore this truthful saying and trample it in the dust. My friends, when we look emigration square in the face, we will find in it our salvation from oppression, as the exodus was to the Israelites from Egyptian oppression. God saw the troubles and afflictions of these people, and he introduced this medium to them through Moses, their leader. They accepted it, and marched to the land of Canaan which He had in reservation for them and their children.

The whites possess the United States; this Government belongs to them; they founded it; they were the first to build settlements here; they started the glorious stream of civilization to flow from Plymouth Rock to the golden gates of the Pacific. It is true the Negroes played a fine piece in the march of civilization—that is, they were important factors in helping to make this country what it is. But, to tell the truth, we are forever lost as being a people of renown as long as we predicate our hope upon what we have done here. We were subordinates, introduced into slavery which lasted two hundred and forty years, and all that we can accomplish here will never wash out the leopard's spots or whiten the Ethiopians' skin. The curse of slavery will forever degrade us in this country; but it will prove a blessing to Africa. We believe God's hand was in slavery for the purpose of bringing about African elevation; and at His time He came to our relief. It was when the people of the two sections rose up against each other in civil war, which was the bloodiest contest of modern times. He saw our afflictions as He did the Israelites, and the result was four millions of African slaves liberated; and we are constrained to believe that this was the first step toward exalting the Negro race. But since we have been free we have met with the most difficult obstructions that were placed before a nation, and to-day they are stronger and more peculiar than ever they were. And yet we are advised by some of the sages to content ourselves, hold conventions, offer indignant resolutions, and deliver outrageous harangues, on the matter; and, by a more serious class, to practice patience. My friends, it is grand and noble to contend for the necessary rights of a people, and it is one of the greatest duties on earth for a race, or nation, to practice patience: but for a race or nation to contend and fight for something when the eternal arrangement of things shows plainly that there is no chance for victory, we think is foolish. And to wait with patience for a reward, when stubborn facts show clearly that there is nothing but destruction, is worse than foolish.

My friends, I am an African, born on American soil, and I am proud of it. I love my race—it is my idol. I would not deceive you if

I could, nor would I try to discourage you in your progress, because your destiny is my destiny, your glory is my glory. Then let us reason together upon the subject of emigration, for our future happiness and greatness are bound up in the subject. It demands our whole attention, and for any one belonging to the colored race to abandon this all-important subject would be a disinterest shown toward African elevation. We shall attempt to tell you nothing but the naked truth; we will not hide from this subject by telling you that we are doing well and there will be a better day. Remember, friends, we are between the Northern and Southern mill-stones, and what hour we cannot tell we will be ground to powder. Emigration means to save us from the dreaded crush of these mighty stones. We may lull ourselves to rest by listening to fanatics ignoring this subject, and thinking of basking in the sunshine of pleasure and reaping an earthly kingdom on this quarter of the globe, but it will never be in your day, neither your children's children's day,

We do not encourage a wholesale emigration, but we advocate a gradual removal until one Negro cannot be found upon American soil. We have a country given to us by nature and nature's God to dignify. We have a people shrouded in moral and intellectual darkness that need to be enlightened. Certainly there is no work that we could accomplish here that would excel the sublime work of redeeming an immense continent beyond the high sea from pagan darkness and barbarity to one of shining civilization and Christianity. The camp-fires of Christianity are being kindled, and the bright torches of civilization can be seen on the western shores of the "Dark Continent." About seventy years ago a few philanthropists, with far-seeing vision, organized a Society for the purpose of finding a home on the western Coast of Africa for those of our race who desire to return to the land of their ancestors. Thank Heaven, the Republic of Liberia is the result of their labor. There is now a focus of light from which the rays may spread across the whole breadth of that long darkness.

Friends, let us not quiet our apprehensions by staving off this question. We believe it has to be met, and better now than at a future day. We had better decide now than wait until more blood is spilt, which might ultimately be our ruin. To content ourselves to remain in this country means that we are satisfied with being mere sham-citizens rather than to be independent citizens in our own land. A quarter of a century in the school of experience is sufficient time for us to learn that social and political equality, however fair in name and theory, is difficult in practice between races so distinct as the African and Caucasian. With this experience, we are sorry that some of our people spurn the idea of going to their original home, where

they would find a fitting field for working out their destiny. It is obvious, my friends, we may spin the threads of life here, and we may weave the little particles together, but we cannot cut nor wear the garment. Circumstances and corroborating facts work to this truth, that there is no possible chance for a permanent elevation of the Negro race in this country.

Every race has a duty to perform to the world. The Caucasian race is said to be the king of all races, because of its mighty works. The Negro race is a weak element beside this mighty king, but there is a chance of us being a powerful people. That chance is to go to Liberia. She stands on the western shores of Africa, calling for the dusky sons and daughters of Ham that were carried captives to come home. Her flag is saluted by other nations, her climate is pleasant, her laws are wholesome, and her people are free.

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#### NEW YORK. STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

*President*; Rev. S. D. Alexander, D. D. *Vice-Presidents*; Rev. J. D. Wells, D. D., H. M. Schieffelin. *Corresponding and Recording Secretary*; Rev. G. W. Samson, D. D. *Treasurer*; Charles T. Geyer. *Executive Committee*; Rev. S. D. Alexander, D. D., Rev. G. W. Samson, D. D., Charles T. Geyer, Charles R. Porterfield, Ernest H. Crosby, Wm. H. Schieffelin, Edward B. Merrill. *Board of Managers*; Rev. J. D. Wells, Rev. S. D. Alexander, D. D., Charles H. Nichols, M. D., Rev. G. W. Samson, D. D., Thomas Davenport, Henry M. Schieffelin, Isaac T. Smith, Morris J. Franklin, George Putnam Smith, H. B. Dyer, Hon. D. R. James, William H. Schieffelin, Ernest H. Crosby, Ashbel Green, Charles T. Geyer, Charles R. Porterfield, Eugene F. Barnes, William H. Mott, Edward B. Merrill, Henry Gilsey, John H. Taylor.

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#### PENNSYLVANIA COLONIZATION SOCIETY,

*President*; Rt. Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, D. D. LL. D. *Vice-Presidents*; Alexander Brown, Archibald McIntyre, Hon. James Pollock, LL. D., Wm. E. Schenck, D. D., Jay Cooke, Wm. V. Pettit, Robt. B. Davidson, Charles R. Colwell, Charles G. Currie, D. D., James Saul, D. D., Peter W. Sheaffer, Rt. Rev. M. A. DeWolfe Howe, D. D., Wilbur F. Paddock, D. D., Robert Shoemaker, Bishop W. R. Nicholson, D. D. *Treasurer*; John Welsh Dulles. *Secretary*; Edward W. Syle D. D. *Managers*; Arthur M. Burton, S. E. Appleton, D. D., John W. Dulles, D. D., E. W. Appleton, D. D., Edward S. Morris, A Longacre, D. D., Gilbert Emley, R. M. Luther, D. D., Rev. A. Elwyn, Rev. Edward Webb, Wm. M. Longstreth, Francis J. Maule.



## RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

Letters received announce the re-election of Hon. Hilary R. W. Johnson as President of Liberia at the biennial election held on the 5th of May. Mr. Johnson was born and educated at Monrovia, and has had large experience in educational and public concerns. His opponent was Rev. Edward W. Blyden, D. D., than whom the African race has no man superior in literary power or in intellectual force. He has long been active in the civil, scholastic and religious affairs of Liberia.

The bark Monrovia is reported to have arrived out April 3rd after a pleasant passage of thirty-four days, with emigrants from Alabama and Texas, sent by the American Colonization Society. They are to settle at Brewerville, a growing town some ten miles up the St. Paul's river.

## AFRICA'S COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE.

Every nation of Europe seems alive to the importance of acquiring the benefits that will surely result from obtaining a commercial foothold in Africa; the immense resources of which have only of late years been made known to the civilized world. Prompt and energetic measures have already been taken by them in appropriating millions of money for exploring and scientific expeditions, for gold mining operations, and in establishing trading companies and lines of direct steam communication. Great Britain has at least twenty-eight steamers running from Liverpool along the West Coast of Africa. France, Holland and Portugal each have steamships engaged in traffic in the same region.

England also has colonies, and France, Germany and Portugal claim extensive possessions on the seaboard and in the interior of Africa. Italy has taken possession of an island off the Coast of the "Dark Continent," and placed colonists and artisans there that she may reap some of the advantages arising from the new birth of an empire.

The population of Africa is estimated at fully 200,000,000, and it is found that in the interior there are rich agricultural and mineral resources, large cities and people of finer physique and intellectual breadth than on the seaboard. When the immense population shall have established intercourse with the outside world, and their country enabled by the best means to bring forth the wealth of its fertile soil and rich mines, what a grand opening will be presented for the exchange of the manufactures of the former for the products of the latter? This is the harvest which European nations are sowing to reap.

America unfortunately, has scarcely made a single move in that direction, yet she has a stepping stone in Liberia, which by enlarged fostering care, might soon become as advantageous to us as England has made her colonies in Asia and Africa.

In view of the considerations presented, the important question arises, do not American manufacturing and commercial interests, and American dignity require that steps should be at once taken for the establishment of steam navigation to West Africa, for the exploration of its interior within and beyond the borders of Liberia, and for the promotion of select emigration to the young African Republic ?

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#### EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF LIBERIA.

Rev. Samuel David Ferguson D. D. was consecrated Bishop of Cape Palmas and parts adjacent, in Grace P. Episcopal Church, New York, on Wednesday June 24, Bishop Lee, presiding, assisted by Bishops Stevens, Littlejohn, Starkey and H. C. Potter. Bishop Ferguson is the first colored member of the American House of Bishops. He was born in Charleston, S. C., forty-three years ago, and emigrated under the auspices of the American Colonization Society to Liberia with his parents when six years old. He was educated in the schools of that country.

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#### MONUMENT TO DR. MOFFAT.

A monument to Rev. Dr. Moffat, the distinguished South African missionary, father-in-law of David Livingstone, was unveiled at his native village of Ormiston, Scotland, April 10, in the presence of a large assembly, among whom were Sir William Muir and other distinguished men. It is fitting that such a memorial should be raised, but the best monument to Moffat and his faithful co-laborers is the energetic prosecution of the missionary work of South Africa, to which they gave their lives.

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#### TRACTS FOR COLORED PEOPLE.

At the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, held April 22, a communication was read from the executor of the late Charles L. Willits, of Camden, N. J., mentioning a legacy in his will of \$10,000 to the "Yearly Meeting of Friends who hold their meetings on Arch street, between Third and Fourth streets, Philadelphia," to be held in perpetual trust; the income thereof to be expended in the distribution of religious tracts and writings of Friends, to be printed at

the charge of the trust, one-half to be expended in such distribution among the colored people in the Southern States, and the other half in Liberia. This legacy was accepted by the Yearly Meeting, and the care and use of the income of the trust were placed in charge of the Meeting for Sufferings.

### MARYLAND IN AFRICA.

At the regular March meeting of the Maryland Historical Society, Hon. John H. B. Latrobe President, in the chair, a paper written by Mr. Latrobe, was read, entitled: "An Omitted Episode in the History of Maryland." The paper was an interesting account of the Maryland State Colonization Society, which was incorporated in 1831. The Society established a colony at Cape Palmas, on the west Coast of Africa, in 1831. Land was purchased from the Kings, having a waterfront of 60 miles. The name of the settlement was Maryland in Africa. The colony was sent out with constitution and bill of rights ready framed. After twenty years the colony had so grown that it was thought it ought to be free and independent. In 1853 the people of Maryland at Cape Palmas, met and appointed commissioners to come to Maryland, in the United States, and consult as to launching as a free nation the colony. The colony was made one of the nations of the earth, and in a few years became a part of Liberia, and was known as Maryland county. In 1837 Mr. John H. B. Latrobe was elected president of the Society, which position he filled until elected president of the National Society.—*Baltimore Sun*:

### THE CONGO MISSION.

BY REV. S. DRYDEN PHELPS, D. D.

WHERE rolls the Congo River,  
In soft, majestic flow;  
Or where its waters quiver  
In foaming falls below;  
O'er all its lengthened borders,  
Where millions live and die,  
Oppressed by sin's disorders,—  
"Come, help us!" is the cry.

Shall commerce pierce the region,  
Lead there an eager train?  
Shall traffic, with its legion,  
Brave death itself for gain?  
And shall the Lord's anointed,  
By blood and Spirit sealed,  
To save the world appointed,  
Be slow to take the field?

Awake, ye hosts of Zion!  
Behold the favored hour;  
Your Captain's word rely on:  
His strength shall be your power.  
Forth to the land before you,  
His harbingers have gone;  
And now, his banner o'er you,  
He calls, "Come on, come on!"

Give, saints, as God hath given,  
And see, as your reward,  
Dense pagan darkness riven,  
And Christ received as Lord;  
For, while the conflict rages,  
A continent in gloom  
Shall burst the chains of ages,  
And rise to bud and bloom.

*The Christian Secretary.*

## PROTECTORATE OF THE NIGER.

The *Gazette* made official announcement on the 5th of June that the districts of the Niger in Africa have been formed into a British protectorate. This comprises the Coast line between the British protectorate of Lagos and the western bank of the Rio del Rey, the territory on both banks of the Niger from its confluence with the river Benue to the sea, and also both banks of the Benue to and including Ibe.

## RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

During the month of March, 1885.

PENNSYLVANIA. (\$1500.00)		ton, Secretary, toward cost of	
<i>Philadelphia.</i> Pennsylvania Colonization Society, John Welsh, Dulles Esq., Treasurer, toward passage and settlement of emigrants at Brewerville by bark Monrovia, sailed Feb. 28th. . . .	1500 00	emigrants passage to Liberia....	10 00
OHIO (\$100.00)		FOR REPOSITORY. (\$1.00.)	
<i>Oxford.</i> Dr. Alexander Guy....	100 00	New York.....	1 00
SOUTH CAROLINA. (\$10.00)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Darlington.</i> Rev. J. P. Brocken-		Donations.....	1600 00
		Emigrant toward passage.....	10 00
		For African Repository .....	1 00
		Rent of Colonization Building..	149 00
		Interest for schools in Liberia.	90 00
		Total Receipts in March.....	\$1850 00

During the month of April, 1885.

RHODE ISLAND. (\$100.00)		FOR REPOSITORY. (\$5.00)	
<i>Newport.</i> E. T. . . . .	100 00	Massachusetts \$1. Louisiana \$1.	
CONNECTICUT. (\$20.00.)		Tennessee \$1. Missouri \$1.	
<i>Hartford.</i> Mrs. Wolcott Huntington .....	20 00	Canada \$1. ....	5 00
NEW JERSEY. (\$16.00)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Princeton.</i> Proxy Collections, transmitted by Rev. Dr. John Maclean, .....	16 00	Donations .....	136 00
		For African Repository .....	5 00
		Rent of Colonization Building....	49 00
		Total Receipts in April.....	\$190 00

During the month of May, 1885.

RHODE ISLAND. (\$50.00.)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Newport.</i> Thomas R. Hazard, Esq. . . . .	50 00	Donation.....	50 00
FOR REPOSITORY. (\$1.00.)		For African Repository.....	1 00
New Hampshire.....	1 00	Rent of Colonization Building.....	271 00
		Total Receipts in May.....	\$322 00



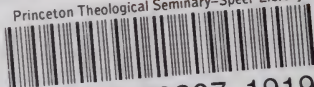




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African Repository

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



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